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OGC HAS REVIEWED.

Deputy Chief, FDD

28 March 1960

Acting Chief, BE

Copyright Material

REF : Memo from Acting Chief, BE to Deputy Chief, FDD, 9 March 1960, Same Subject

1. The following information on copyright problems in Eastern Europe is provided as a supplement to referenced memorandum.

a. Czechoslovakia

The bulk of the economic journals, one sociological journal, and two sociological newspapers carry the copyright symbol, the letter c within a circle. One sociological journal does not contain the symbol, but does contain a caveat permitting reproduction with source citation.

An interesting sidelight is the fact that only Czech sources have been found to contain copyright caveats thus far, although the Czech and Slovak publishing houses were merged recently. For example, Literarni Noviny, a Czech publication, is copyrighted, while Kulturny Zivot, its Slovak counterpart, is not.

b. East Germany

Although no copyright symbol has yet been observed, most sources contain variations of the following caveats:

"Reprint permitted only with prior permission of editors and maintenance of author's rights."

"All rights with regard to photographs and articles reserved, including the right of translation into foreign languages. Excerpts, lectures, and reviews permitted only with full source citation."

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"All rights reserved. Reprint, translation, and excerpts permitted only with source citation."

"Reprint, and excerpts permitted only with authorization of the publisher. All other rights reserved."

"Reprint, multigraphing and translation of the contents of this periodical require written authorization from the publisher. Excerpts and lectures with source citation permitted without authorization."

"Reprint permitted if source is cited."

"Reprint only with permission of the publishers."

c. Hungary

Recent articles indicate that Hungary is giving serious consideration to the adoption of a new law regulating copyrights. A compilation of statements on the matter will be published in Eastern Europe Press Survey (96). Primary emphasis in such articles is being placed on protection for performing artists, radio and television scripts, and the industrial arts. However, the following excerpts indicate that the entire field of material subject to copyright is being considered.

"The greater part of the people's democratic states have created a new copyright law since their liberation. This task has now become due for us also. The Hungarian law of 1921 is out of date...."

"In recent years, Czechoslovakia and Poland have been participating ever more profoundly in international debates of copyright problems.... It can be assumed that the thought of joining with the Brussels text of the agreement will be the subject for serious consideration in these countries in the near future.... Yugoslavia, which created a new law in 1946, regulated copyright questions with a completely new law in 1957 which took into consideration technical developments and international requirements."

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Only one publication, an illustrated dictionary published in Budapest in 1959, has been found thus far with the copyright symbol.

Other sources contain the following caveat:

"Extracts of articles may be used only with source citation. Entire articles may be used only by special permission of the author and the editors."

d. Poland

No copyright symbols have been observed thus far. However, some economic journals and one paramilitary journal contain the following caveats:


"Reprint permitted only with citation of source."

"All rights reserved. Reprint permitted with source citation."

"Articles cannot be reprinted in other periodicals without permission."

2. There appears to be some justification for concluding that other East European nations, in addition to Czechoslovakia, will become signatories to the Universal Copyright Convention in the near future, since they are members of UNESCO and are probably also interested in the international prestige, however slight, that is derived from membership. Because of this possibility it becomes more important than ever that an interpretation of our legal obligations with respect to East European copyrights be obtained from the Office of General Counsel.

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Acting Chief, Eastern Europe Branch

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